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THIS LITERACY TEST IS NEEDED

More important than a requirement that every alien entering this country shall be able to read and write some language would be a requirement that every alien who becomes an American citizen must within a reasonable time learn to read and write the language of this country.

The continued fostering of alien and anti-American ideals by a foreign language press is not to be contemplated with complacency. There should be one creed of Americanism for all Americans and but one language for its expression. The expression of thought in print through a foreign language, whatever it be, erects a barrier the more dangerous because it is intangible against the growth of American ideals.

Every artificial hindrance to the assimilation of the various peoples who come to the United States into one people should be done away with.

NOT TO BE TOLERATED

The right of free speech is not broad enough to cover agitation, selfish or sentimental, to prevent war by means of general strikes, anti-enlistment organization or resistance to military draft, no matter what the country's provocation may be. Ordinarily, little attention is paid to those who preach disloyalty in this fashion, but at a time when the country is passing through one of the most dangerous crises in its history their activities become an actual menace and cannot be ignored.

The right of free speech was incorporated as one of the fundamental elements of American independence, but we doubt if the men who fought to establish that independence conceived it to be possible that any American citizen would ever invoke that right to protect him in preaching allegiance only to a "humanity" higher than and beyond the Government of the United States. The "American-without-a-country" idea is of comparatively recent origin. In such a time as this it should be dealt with summarily, whether enunciated from the soap box or in Congress or aired through the medium of pacifistic literature.

Ample authority exists already in the Federal statutes for the suppression of this sort of trouble-making. There should be no hesitation about applying it.

A NEW HONOR ROLL

Added to the roll of honor of American citizens are the names of those German residents of Washington who yesterday became naturalized citizens. They form the vanguard of a long list of such men who will do the same thing.

Aliens who have resisted the thoroughgoing effort of the Bureau of Naturalization to have them take out citizenship papers now are anxious to set themselves right in the land of their adoption by cutting loose the ties with a land that has clinched a clear case of being entirely out of harmony with our ideals.

A warm welcome should await these men who have undertaken, by reason of careful thought and considered judgment, to accept the privileges that came to many millions as a birthright. Their act betokens a conviction in contrast to what may too frequently become a commonplace among those who inherit American citizenship.

CO-OPERATION

Approval of the President's action in finally breaking the form of national friendship with Germany flashes from every corner of this great country. The nation's heart is touched. Now let its mind be enlisted.

It is everybody's business to stand behind the President; everybody admits that. Hence it follows directly that it is everybody's business to support the plans and obey the orders of the President's department heads. The people should trust the plans of the competent soldiers and sailors whose ideas will govern the country's preparations for an acute emergency.

Those plans have been made by experts, and the present comment and criticism of individual amateurs can and should be dispensed with completely. This admonition should apply with special force to the loquacity of such citizens as profess to believe in a policy of non-resistance to attack. The layman's advice is generally useless; the pacifist's prattle in the present situation is too offensive for tolerance.

It is the business of the American

people to act single-heartedly and single-mindedly in their opportunity to save their country from disgrace and their spirit from perishing.

URGENT PRECAUTIONS

The German crisis should remind the United States to be on its guard in a multiplicity of small matters. The experience of 1915 taught this country in what directions it might expect treachery and mischief in case of new difficulties with Germany. No loophole must now be left unguarded through which the earlier attempts may be repeated or imitated. Guard on the President's person already has been strengthened and precautions should be extended against insane acts. No enemy official need be suspected of seeking to do violence to him, but the cranks are likely to be stimulated by the excitement of popular feeling.

A reasonable degree of surveillance should be kept on all the official representatives of Germany to make sure that they do not pursue an avocation of conspiracy after the example of Boy-Ed, von Papen, and certain consular officials. The public mind must be prepared for a possible renewed outbreak of organized pro-German agitation, for terrifying stories of a German military organization of a million men in this country, and what not. The German shipping now at refuge in American ports must be checked in any attempt to steal out and turn suddenly from refugee into freighter on the American coast or to seek the bottom as one interned vessel has already done.

Precautions are needed aboard every American ship, at every dock where sugar may be dosed with bombs or grain poisoned or coal set afire. American military and naval stations must not be allowed to suffer as did the navy yards in 1915. Warships must be guarded. All munition plants, being potentially valuable to the nation, should be guarded as thoroughly as if they were Government property. Railroad bridges, tunnels, the Panama and other canals need a like protection. Mexico as a point of exterior trouble will watch for an opportunity of which advantage may be taken against us. Under the circumstances the withdrawal of Pershing was ill-timed, in a respect that the President could hardly have foreseen, for it gives Carranza and Villa fresh confidence.

These are only a few of the points at which the discomforts of strained relations with Germany will threaten us. They are the most obvious, however, and the nation is entitled to expect wide-awake official watchfulness in each of the directions we have indicated.

HENRY FORD

Our hats must come off to Henry Ford, red-blooded citizen of these United States. Likewise to the dozen or so other American manufacturers and business men who yesterday called at the Navy Department and proffered their services and the property that is theirs to the use of the United States in case there is war.

Mr. Ford is quoted recently as stating he would not give \$5 for all the art to be had in our galleries, but some time ago he proved he was the sort of dreamer that artists are made of by engaging a ship and taking a party abroad to end the war by Christmas. When a specialist emerges from his specialty into the realm of international politics, as Mr. Ford, or into the field of religion, as Mr. Edison occasionally does, the results are apt to be startling. Evidence points to the fact that before Mr. Ford got far out of sight of land with his belligerent crew of assorted peace-makers he realized the futility of it all and retired in silence to his stateroom.

It now develops that Mr. Ford did not need the object lesson of aviators who suggestively dropped paper bombs on his home and factories in Detroit. He may be a dreamer, but he also is a very practical and loyal American. He proved it yesterday.

CENSORSHIP

The natural prospect is for a military and naval censorship of news publication in the event of a state of war existing between Germany and the United States. The matter has been studied in the War Department and the War College division has prepared a bill by which Congress would impose such restrictions. The reason and necessity for such control of publicity is well understood, and citizens generally will submit willingly to a censorship, obviously part of the proper conduct of a war.

But this nation is strong for knowing things and for "being shown." It is impossible, of course, to carry on a war as a debating society is conducted and to indulge the yearnings of theorists and littérateurs to address the country at length in obstructionist twaddle. Yet it is perfectly true that the country will be most keenly interested in every detail of events from now on. The strain under which the nation has held its tongue for more than two years has been a severe one.

Nothing which can give aid or comfort to the enemy—if the United

States takes the field against any enemy—should get past the expert guardian of the country's history in the making. On the other hand, no mere sense of arbitrary power should ever impel the official blue pencil. The country has a right to the maximum of genuine information, and should not be asked to submit to more than the least possible degree of censorship of legitimate news. It is for all the newspapers to support the Government's hands by compliance with all needed regulation. There will be plenty of news, in any event, and no good ever results from attempted evasion of a general rule established for the general good.

FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS

Fear that the tide of gold which has poured into our coffers since the war started, that the abounding prosperity of commerce and industry, that our rapid emergence into a high place among creditor nations might be unsafe has been swept aside in the last few days by the realization that we may need all our resources in case of war.

How strongly we are entrenched financially, how staunch is our economic preparedness, is indicated in the annual report of the Comptroller of the Currency, just submitted to Congress. Securities of foreign governments and other foreign holdings of national banks up to December 27, 1916, are shown to reach the unprecedented figure of \$321,993,000. Furthermore, the records of national banks in about 100 cities showed that direct loans to business men of other nations aggregated \$136,669,000. In other words, our total credit balance, against other countries amounts to \$458,662,000. All of which does not represent in any degree a crippling of our own development or a withdrawal of any funds needed in operation or extension of our own industries.

How strongly we have stepped out into the world's market place is further indicated by the report on clearing house figures, which show that the transactions have reached the enormous total of \$241,407,541,000, an increase over the previous year of more than \$78,000,000,000.

CITY GARDENING

Some months ago The Times suggested the unusual possibilities Washington affords in the development of home gardening. Other cities are seeking to make use of vacant lots in this manner, and even in congested New York, building lots in outlying sections which hitherto yielded revenue only to real estate speculators, have been developed into tracts which produce potatoes and other vegetables.

Recently the United States Bureau of Education has published a monograph, worth the study of city dwellers, showing how other cities have utilized such waste space. In a recent interview E. L. Thurston, superintendent of schools, indicated that effort was to be made to interest school children in this form of gardening.

Hitherto the home and school garden idea has been projected largely along decorative lines. The economic possibilities of such work are tremendous. They have been satisfactorily demonstrated in European cities. Work done by children in raising food products in their own back yards and on vacant lots not only would have a bearing on family incomes, but it would be of a distinct educational value. It already has been suggested that if such gardening is developed sufficiently it might figure in the credits pupils get for school courses. The effort they could expend in this fashion would represent the sort of experimental and constructive work that is greatly needed in the present cut-and-dried school courses. Its possibilities are worth the careful study of the Washington Board of Education.

"Eleven foreign language editors for Wilson." The beauty about our latest answer to Germany is that anyone who is proud to fight for principle can read it.

"Overt act" is now getting all the attention once directed toward "strict accountability."

Some folk still insist that Germany desired us to put Zebra stripes on our Plymouth road vessels as the first drive in a spring clean-up, paint-up campaign.

Pacifism and jingoism alike seem thrown into the discard.

Republicans, Democrats, Progressives, erstwhile pro-Germans, and most everybody but the suffrage pickets have decided to uphold the President and refrain from bothering him.

Many of our pacifist friends do not believe in extremely cold weather, either, but they were overcast this morning just the same.

United States ueber alles!

"Kulturpolitik" is defined as "the German word for the conscious direction by Germany of the influences in this country that for years have been striving to establish German culture here." Another of the words we can get along very well without.

Don Marquis' Column

The Kaiser "is staking all." All he has left, that is.

Preferences of a Nature Student.
I do not like aquariums;
I would not give a damn
To view the clammy manabe
Or the man-eating clam.

But soon I love, and any time
I'd leave my happy home
To see a dromedary fly
Around an aerodrome.

—Mark Russell.

Bernstorff will have to eat a great many meals where he is going in order to get one good Ritz-Carlton dinner.

Who They Are.

Sir: I am the young man who is taller than his father. The latter is usually greeted with: "Well, you'll have to grow to catch your son," or "Father's clothes will no longer fit Larry," when he is seen in my company.

—Linotype Larry.

Bohemia.

This is the place, so shout "Hooray!" Hang up your hat and take a seat. These are the silly things they say. And these the mysteries they eat. Observe the text upon the wall:

"How many polar bears have feet?"

That gentleman is Popinjay.

Who loathes the Cid and writes blank verse;

And sobbing soup across the way
Is Marty Mugs—the cubist curse.

Beware that maid of gummy gaze,
She seldom has a purse.

That little group is talking "Squunch."
No wonder they are mildly merry.

"Squunch" is a Burmese term for cheese—
(Observe these rhymes are arbitrary.)

Ah, there's a Russian leaper, tame,
Who eats, and prances, in a hurry.

These anarchists all wear their hats
Those royalists abhor blue jeans.

These socialists wear black cravats—
Those pessimists are in their teens.

Observe that knot of playtheists
Who curse at faith and bolt their beans.

That bunch of learned little lads
Hatch one-act plays, or more or less.

These illelitt artist grada.
Mora's Illum, not M-S-S.

But here's fresh beer, and there's
fresh air.

And where is art? I have my
guess.

—John B. Kennedy.

Count Adam Tarnowski von Tarnow arrives at an interesting time, to say the least. Are we to have the pleasure of his company long?

My Golden Age.

How long it was after my death I know not—

But it was at the time when the poles of the Earth began to thaw.

At the time when the patchy blood-spots on the breastplates of my soul were turning to gold

And when the seas of the dead began to give up their living and the Cosmos of the Stars dipped his ear no more in the Running Seas

'Twas at that time, I think, I came into my heritage and reaped the whirlwind of my joys.

—Benjamin De Casseres.

Suggested legend for a book plate:
He Steals Best Who Steals Last.

It Sounds Like a Legacy.

W. G., who frequents an insurance office, avers that one Mr. Stocking recently requested that his life insurance policy be assigned to a Mr. Shinn.

The Beggar Maid at the Tomb of the Prince.

King's Son!
How desolate your tomb and drear!
Ghosts shadows lurk about your bier,
But I know orchards wet and sweet
With dew and bloom and starlight clear;

I scarce can stay my eager feet,
While cricket minstrels pipe so near!
Oh, come with me away to hear,
King's Son!

King's Son,
The wise men creak and call you dead,
But sure they jest—I shake my head;
Though all the kingdom grieved be
It is a lie that they have said!

Ah, open up the door for me!
Before the shining spring has fled
Come forth and with your beggar wed,
King's Son!

Dear Love,
You lie so still within your tomb
While spring is weaving at her loom:
In this the Sweethearts' Month o' May

How strange to dream in mould and gloom!
O hark, O hear, O come away!
Forsake your undelighted room
And crown my hair with apple bloom,
King's Son!

Best loved,
The shining night will soon be sped,
There, open your eyes and raise your head;
I am so wearied waiting here—
The cricket minstrels long have fled:
(My heart is stabbed with sudden fear!

I think on what the wise men said)—
Oh, help me, heaven—are you dead—
King's Son?

—Virginia Biddle.

No, sir, Cul. Huhensullers, we will not point our ships up like zebras and use 'em only once a week.

DON MARQUIS.

Here and There In the News

American citizens of German descent are advised, by what is called "the morning leading German newspaper in the United States," that "cool-headedness and wisely considered action should be the first commandment in these serious times." But why "American citizens of German descent"? If they are "American citizens," in fact, why does it matter where their ancestors came from? What "action" could they be expected to take that was not wholly American? What special commandment should they need for their guidance "in these serious times"? Why should their so-called leading journalistic adviser speak of them as a class apart from all other Americans of foreign descent and requiring special counsel as to their duty as "American citizens"? A better commandment than that given to them by their self-constituted guardian might be given by them to it: "Keep your parts of speech straight and your mouth shut."

Housatonic a Familiar Name.

Contemporaneously with the President's determination to sever diplomatic relations with Germany the United States steamer Housatonic was torpedoed by a German submarine on the high seas. The name is familiar. Nearly fifty-three years ago, or to be exact, on February 17, 1864, the blockading steamship Housatonic, carrying eleven guns, was sunk off Charleston harbor by a "fish" or diving, torpedo-boat. In Johnson's book—"The Defense of Charleston Harbor"—it is said that this boat was "fitted out in Charleston and commanded by Lieut. G. E. Dixon, of the Twenty-first Maine Regiment. The daring officer and his crew of six perished in the attack."

Lay Side By Side.

"After the war the 'fish' boat was found at the bottom close to the wreck of the larger vessel. Captain Pickering of the Housatonic was seriously bruised by the explosion, and five others were drowned. Ensign E. C. Hamelton, C. O. Muzzey, John Williams, Thomas Parker, and John Walsh. In his report to Rear Admiral Dahlgren of the sinking of the Housatonic, Lieut. F. J. Higginson, commanding the Canandaigua, said:

"About 8:45 p. m. the officer of the deck, Acting Master J. E. Crook, discovered something in the water about 100 yards from and moving toward the ship. It had the appearance of a plank moving in the water. It came directly toward the ship, the time from when it was first seen till it was close alongside being about two minutes. During this time the chain was slipped, engine backed, and all hands called to quarters. The torpedo struck the ship forward of the mainmast on the starboard side, in a line with the magazine. Having the after pivot guns pivoted port, we were unable to bring a gun to bear upon her. About one minute after she was alongside the explosion took place, the ship sinking stern first and heeling to port as she sank."

This is an interesting bit of history about the war that never was. There seems to be something in its name, after all.

Strategy in War.

All sorts of suggestions are being made by the strategists as to how the military operations should be conducted if the United States should be forced into war. One of the ancients, who still believes in the squirrel rifle as a most effective weapon of both offense and defense, thinks there should be a council of war to pass upon questions of strategy and service, but that would hardly work in the present advanced methods of making war. General Grant seemed to have the right idea fifty years ago. All he wanted was men and munitions and time. What he did not want was a council of war. He would not stand for it was interference from advisers who did not know anything except in the most theoretical way about the conditions at the front and how to meet them.

Dewey and His Methods.

Admiral Dewey also had the right view when he cut the cables and did his own fighting. Grant was ordered to go to Richmond and he got there after considerable difficulty. Dewey was ordered to destroy the Spanish ships at Manila and he did his work thoroughly without orders from the executive office at Washington. If war should come with Germany, the President will doubtless select his agents to do certain things and leave the rest to them. If his selections are good he need not bother.

The Austrian Ambassador.

If it should be determined that diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary should cease, Count Tarnowski may find some comfort in the thought that he is not the first who stopped before he got fairly started. The epitaph in Thetis' chamber chanted on a child who died at the age of three weeks, in the event that he receive his passports, would seem to fit his own case very well:

"It is so soon that I am done for,
I wonder what I was begun for."

Should Children Be Suppressed.

Talking yesterday about certain men who delight to speak of their own personal bravery in trying emergencies and when "facing fearful odds," the story was told of the veteran of many hard-fought battles who sought to impress his hopeful offspring with the courage and daring of his revered parent by an account of how on one memorable occasion he had "run the Yankee" or the other way around (the story will fit either of the old sides) well-nigh to death, and who was shocked beyond recovery when the precocious boy asked in his blindest and most innocent way: "Well, papa, did they catch you?" Isn't it queer how a thing like that, and it is happening nearly every day, can destroy the peace of the best regulated family. The truth is, boys ought to be suppressed. Perhaps Senator James Hamilton Lewis will propose a constitutional amendment to cover such cases.

One of the Colonel's Stories.

One of Colonel Roosevelt's best stories comes in just now with special force. It was about the man who was willing to work but could not refrain from talking, and when asked what was expected of him was told by his superior officer: "All that I want from you is silence and damned little of that." As Captain Bunsby would say: "The 'beast' of this observation lies in its application."

THE COMMENTATOR.

MARYLAND GUARD GETTING RECRUITS

Silver Spring Co. Launches Campaign to Get New Members.

Trained and hardened by their five months' active service on the border, Company K, First Maryland Infantry, stationed at Silver Spring, Md., is launching an active recruiting campaign. In view of the fact that the District of Columbia Infantry is still on the border, except for the First Separate Battalion, the Silver Spring and the Hyattsville companies of the First Maryland Infantry are the only infantry units available for the enlistment of citizen soldiers in and around Washington in the present national crisis.

Intensive Training.

For five months the First Infantry was given intensive field training under the direction and instruction of officers of the regular army. It drilled, maneuvered, hiked, and had target practice in conjunction with the Thirtieth and Third United States Infantry, the First and Second Kansas Infantry, the First Vermont Infantry, the Fourth and Fifth Maryland Infantry, and the First Tennessee Infantry. This training followed a similar schedule to that at Plattsburgh.

Attention is being called to the fact that on the regular army rifle range at Eagle Pass, Tex., Company K qualified five expert riflemen, nineteen sharpshooters, twenty-two marksmen, eight first-class riflemen and four second-class riflemen.

Four failed to qualify and seven did not shoot, being on special duty or in the general hospital.

Thorough Training.

If mobilized, it is said, the training will undoubtedly be thorough and intensive. If not mobilized in the present crisis, men joining now will receive the full field equipment of an infantry soldier in the regular army, be required to attend one drill a week of an hour and a half each, for which the United States pays each soldier \$1 per drill, and will be mobilized in fifteen days each summer in a field camp, which includes four days rifle practice on an out-door target range. For this fifteen days period each summer the pay and subsistence is the same as for the regular army.

Those in charge of recruiting desire to recruit the company to the maximum peace strength of 100 men, and in case of mobilization, to war strength of 150 men.

First Lieut. Brooke Lee, commanding Company K, phone Columbia 4295 and Woodside 104, and Second Lieut. Frank L. Hewitt, Silver Spring, phone Woodside 23 J, in charge of the recruiting.

HANS AND FRITZ AT POLI'S

Famous Characters of Comic Section Seen on Stage.

"Hans and Fritz" are at Poli's Theater this week. And along with them are Mrs. Katzenjammer who protects them in true comic section style from the wrath of the "Captain" and the "Inspector" Louis, the ape, is also on the job, and even Violet, the goat, butts her way into the show.

A large number of children, who have enjoyed Mr. Dick's famous drawings of the Katzenjammer Kids, were present last night to see the mischievous youngsters in real life. Their shouts of approval were ample evidence that Hans and Fritz were living up to their reputation.

With the aid of a few extra characters an enjoyable love story is woven into the play. As if to give the captain and the inspector a short respite from the worrisome antics of the kids, a number of songs and dancing specialties are introduced. There is a large chorus, a pleasing variety of costumes, and some beautiful scenery.

Louis Thiel, is the Captain, and Bettine Robinson, is Mrs. Katzenjammer. Nat Ferber plays the Inspector. Danny McCormick appears as Hans, and Casper Weiss as Fritz. The Maine twins take good care of the goat and ape parts. Mr. Walsh, Patsy O'Brien, Edward Kirby, Edward Sedan and Thomas Abington complete the list of players.

TO DISCUSS PRODUCTIONS

Study Club of Drama League to Meet Tonight.

The Study Club of the Drama League will sit on the floor in the workshop, in the backyard at 1332 V street, this evening to discuss "The Tragedy of Hamlet" and "Lady Patricia," two plays which have been presented this season by the Players' Group. J. Lewis Moneyway and Sibley Evans will lead the discussion.

Plans are nearing completion for the cabaret and dance to be given at the Workshop February 14, 15, and 16, when the Players' Group hopes to get financial aid to keep open the Workshop, where the scenery and costumes for the league's productions are made.

Casts were announced today for the forthcoming presentation of three one-act plays. In "Cathie, N. H. H.," by William Butler Yeats, will appear Edna Ellis, Finley S. Hayes, R. Mason Wilhelm, Frederick Gailly, and Esther Galbraith.

In "James and John," by Gilbert Cason, will be seen Arthur B. White, Myra S. Tilley, and Henry Dolan. In "Suppressed Desires," a play that has attracted wide attention in New York, written by George Cram Cook and Susan Glaspell, John Tuttle, Kathryn Hitchcock and Margaret C. Lancaster will be seen.

LEAVES \$200,000 ESTATE.

William Owen Nixon Scott, by his will dated January 3, 1913, and filed for probate in the District Supreme Court yesterday, distributes an estate estimated to be worth \$200,000, among his three children, Frank K. Scott, Mrs. William I. Hawthorn and Mrs. Charles Bridgen Lancaster. The testator died on January 29 last.

2,000 D. C. WOMEN TO OFFER SERVICES

Daughters of Revolution to Volunteer in Case War is Declared.

Two thousand Washington women will tender their services to the Government under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution if war with Germany is declared. This offer will be made in pursuance of the call issued yesterday in New York by Mrs. William Cumming Story, president general of the organization, who asked the 55,000 members to prepare for service to the country.

Offer in Advance.

The Ruth Brewster Chapter of the District of Columbia Society of the D. A. R. met yesterday, with Mrs. Frank Foster Greenwald presiding, and offered its services to the American Red Cross. It is the first chapter of the District society to make such an offer in advance of a call from the head of the national body.

"There are two thousand women in Washington who will offer their services under the D. A. R.," said Mrs. Greenwald today.

West On Record.

"Last April the organization went